

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13756

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, MPOL, PFOR, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY MFA VIEWS ON SEPT. 17 NAC STANDARDIZATION
MEETING

REF: USNATO 5079

1. MFA NATO CHIEF SALLEO, DURING ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH
DR. BENNETT AND GROUP ON SEPTEMBER 19, PRESENTED WHAT HE
DESCRIBED WAS "PRIMA FACIE" MFA RESPONSE TO STEERING COMMITTEE
CONCEPT PUT FORTH IN NAC MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17. HE REAFFIRMED
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GENERAL GOI SUPPORT FOR EFFORT; PLEDGING THAT US SHOULD EXPECT

NO DIFFICULTY FROM THEIR QUARTER. GOI AGREES THAT FOR STANDARDIZATION EFFORT TO GET OFF THE GROUND, THERE EXISTS AN URGENT NEED FOR QUICK AND CONCRETE STEPS TO BE TAKEN WHICH FOR MAXIMUM EFFECT SHOULD INCLUDE THE FRENCH. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, THE STEERING GROUP MUST RECEIVE ITS MANDATE FROM THE NAC AND REPORT THERETO OR THE FRENCH WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PARTICIPATE.

2. SALLEO THEN GAVE FORTH WITH A RATHER PASSIONATE-THOUGH SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY-REPRESENTATIVE ITALIAN EXPLANATION OF THE LIMITS BEYOND WHICH THE 14 SHOULD NOT GO IN ATTEMPTING TO LINE UP FRENCH PARTICIPATION. FIRST AND FOREMOST, THE WORK OF THE STEERING GROUP MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO KILL THE MEAGRE BUT REAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE EUROGROUP NOR SHOULD THE EUROGROUP FORUM BE ABANDONED. THIS IS ESPECIALLY SO REGARDING THE POSITIONS TAKEN IN THE EUROGROUP REPORT ON STANDARDIZATION-TO WHICH THE FRENCH WERE REPEATEDLY ASKED TO ATTACH THEMSELVES. HE ASKED THAT WE CONSULT CLOSELY WITH GOI AND BELGIANS WHO WORKED HARD TO MAINTAIN A EUROGROUP OPEN TO U.S. INTERESTS AGAINST BRITISH AND GERMAN INCLINATION TO DO ANYTHING TO APPEASE THE FRENCH.

3. SALLEO CAUTIONED, FINALLY, THAT THE PROBLEM OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION ASIDE, THE ALLIES MUST EXERCISE INTELLECTUAL PRECISION AND POLITICAL COURAGE LEST THEY LOSE SIGHT OF THE REAL PURPOSES OF STANDARDIZATION/RATIONALIZATION: WHICH ARE TO ENHANCE THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SECURITY OF THE ALLIES. IN HIS PRESENTATION POLITICAL/MILITARY GOALS WERE JUXTAPOSED WITH ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL. COMMENT: SALLEO, AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND THE POLITICAL DIRECTORATE OF THE DEFENSE GENERAL STAFF MADE CLEAR THAT THE GOAL OF STANDARDIZATION SHOULD BE A MAXIMIZATION OF PROCUREMENT AND INTEROPERABILITY SO LONG AS IT ALSO PROMOTES A MAXIMIZATION OF ITALIAN EMPLOYMENT AND THE MODERNIZATION, OR AT LEAST PRESERVATION, OF HER MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL BASE. STANDARDIZATION WILL NOT BE SOLD HERE ON THE BASIS OF COST EFFECTIVENESS ALONE. ONLY THE ITALIAN DEPUTY REP (GENERAL CAGGIANI) TO THE CNAD CAME CLOSE TO ACCEPTING COST EFFECTIVENESS AS ITS BASIS, BUT HE WOULD IMPOSE IT BY HAVING THE CNAD EMPOWERED TO MAKE SUPRANATIONAL

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DECISIONS IN THE PROCUREMENT AND LOGISTICS FIELD WHICH MAY WELL GO BEYOND WHAT IS POLITICALLY ATTAINABLE EITHER IN ITALY OR THE UNITED STATES. END COMMENT.
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